



Metro Academic and Classical High School

District: St. Louis Public School District

Enrollment: 233

Grade Range: 9-12



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Metro Academic and Classical High School's mission is to provide a challenging and quality education that will focus on high standards and expectations in an atmosphere of unity, enthusiasm, caring, and respect for self and others.

Since its inception in 1971 as an alternative high school with selected enrollment, Metro Academic and Classical High School has developed into a true college preparatory experience for students. With cultural diversity at the foundation of the school's mission, the student body is comprised of an almost equal mix of African-American and white students, with a smaller representation of Asian and Hispanic students, from both the city of St. Louis and its suburbs. Metro's location in mid-town St. Louis, near famous cultural landmarks and the eclectic offerings of the Central West End introduces students of disparate backgrounds to an appreciation of the rich offerings which the city brings to the metropolitan area.

Metro Academic and Classical High School is an exemplary model of student achievement and success, academic rigor, and nurturing school climate. Faculty and staff strive to develop in each student a hunger for academic and personal excellence, and an appreciation for all cultures. Along with a diverse student population, there are unique components at Metro which bring strength to the school's mission.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

The International Baccalaureate Organization offers a two-year curriculum culminating with a secondary school diploma known as the International Baccalaureate, which is based upon international standards, critical thinking skills, and reflective evaluation. To offer this curriculum and the corresponding examinations, schools must be authorized by the IBO. This process involves several phases, beginning with a formal application. Next, teachers are trained, the curriculum for the program is written, and the school is evaluated by a visiting team. Approval of each of the above components results in affiliation status followed by full participation. The Diploma Program commenced at Metro Academic and Classical High School in August, 2002, with the first diplomas awarded in 2004.

The IB program at Metro is fully integrated with Metro's program to offer the most challenging curriculum to all. While there is a small group of "diploma" students who take only IB courses, there are many more who take one or two IB classes over the course of four years, thereby having the experience of a very rigorous course without having to commit to the entire program.

“BEST PRACTICE IN ACTION...”

- ***Ninth Grade Transition Program*** – The Ninth Grade Transition Program is Metro students’ first encounter with the expectations, experience, and community of the school. During this summer program, students are given information about the expectations, personal responsibility, appropriate conduct, and freedom afforded to them at Metro.
- ***Eco-Act*** – This popular course, taught in conjunction with a major local scientific institution, the Missouri Botanical Garden, requires Metro students to become instructors themselves, teaching ecology lessons to fourth graders at the nearby Cole Elementary School.

Community Involvement

For Metro students, involvement in the community means both learning from and giving to the community that provides their education. Through mentoring and shadowing, students have the opportunity to learn from professionals in the community. As a part of the Community, Action, Service (CAS) program, Metro students must perform 300 hours of volunteer work prior to graduation. Each Metro student must complete 75 hours of community service each year. This can be done by working with non-profit community organizations, tutoring, or community social action groups.

Grading and Academic Probation Policies

The culture of “taking responsibility for your own learning” is ingrained in Metro students. This partnership between students and teachers, combined with students’ “ownership” of the school’s goals and mission, results in everyone striving toward more effective learning. Metro recognizes 70 percent as a minimum passing grade. Additionally, no student may remain at the school if he/she fails three courses over two consecutive semesters of an academic year. These policies support Metro’s strong belief that students who take responsibility for their own growth and who see consequences for lack of application develop an appreciation for personal achievement.

“WORDS OF WISDOM”

- ***“A thoughtful mission statement is the production guide for any organization, and in the case of Metro Academic and Classical High School, the mission statement lives throughout every component of the school.”***
- ***“In addition to individualizing instruction, small class size allows for interaction with each student during a class period. Students are more actively involved and engaged when there is personal interaction in every class.”***
- ***“It is the principal who empowers individual teams, students, and parents to participate in the decision-making and solution process, resulting in the building of leadership capacity.”***

Open Campus

Metro’s open campus fosters the opportunity for independence, self-motivation, and maturity for students. In a school with college-type scheduling, no class bells, no district-provided transportation, unassigned free periods, and no restriction of movement off campus, students must develop the strength to realize that freedoms only lead to success if used wisely.

Metro Academic and Classical High School takes pride in setting high standards, but it takes more pride in helping students achieve those standards. In its 31st year, Metro thrives and extends its history of success.